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5th November 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/05796

### REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/05796

I write in connection with your request for information received on 11th October. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I am requesting any police incident logs and crime reports involving unusual canine animal sightings, encounters or attacks within the Hertfordshire area over the last 5 years. If it is not too much work, I would appreciate it if you could find reports dating further back (maybe 10 - 15 years?), but because I have no idea how many there may be, I don't know if this request would prove unreasonable or outside the allowed quota for a FOIA Request? By unusual canine animal reports, I specifically refer to animals that may be referred to as dog/canine like cryptids.....most importantly, concentrating on the following keywords: Large canine/wolf reports Upright canine reports Bipedal canine reports Werewolf reports Dogman reports Hyena like canine reports I am aware that this request may seem 'out of this world' or bizarre, but people report encounters of these creatures all over the world, including in the UK and I would genuinely appreciate any effort in retrieving these incident logs and crime reports.**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

**Response** – Our Information Management System has an Incident Class for Animal/Wildlife Incidents – of these there are in excess of 9,000 incidents mentioning the word dog for the five years to August 2018. However to identify if these incidents involved an unusual dog would entitle us to look at each individual report to see if it was relevant to your request.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –  
“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Hertfordshire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson  
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.